



NEZ PERCE COUNTY PROFILE

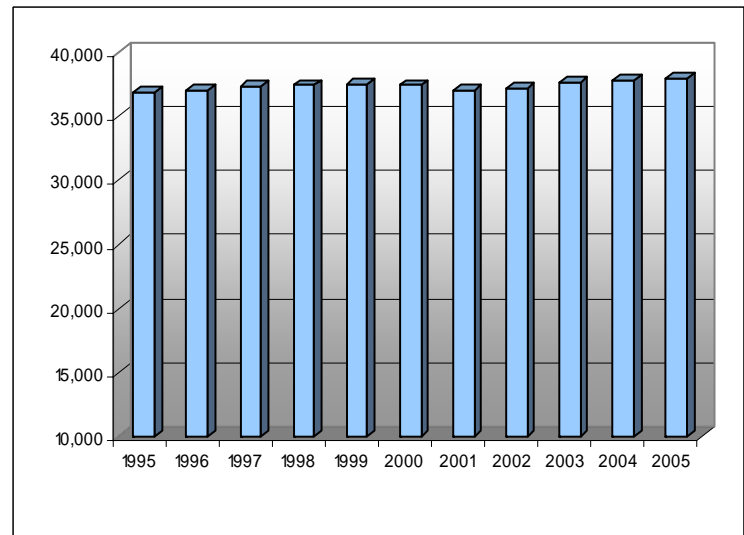
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Population

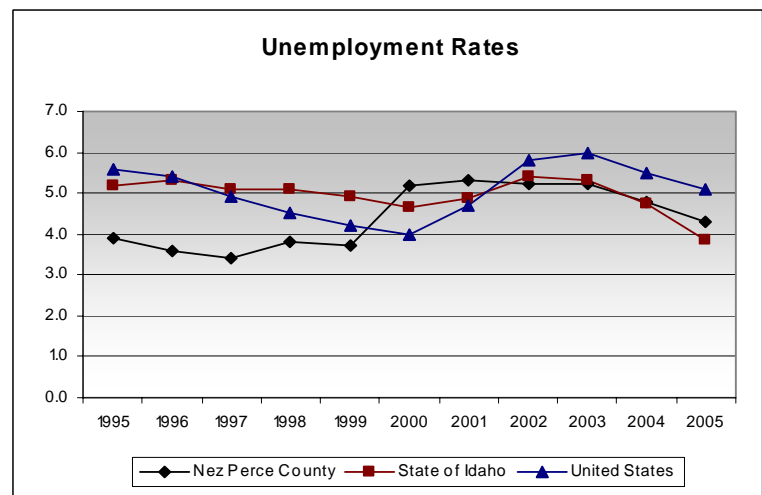
Since 1999, the population in Nez Perce County has increased only slightly to 37,931 in 2005. New registrations for driver's licenses, and job registrations at the Lewiston Job Service, indicate that the few people who did move to Nez Perce County are from other parts of the Northwest, including other areas of Idaho. The increases in population gives Nez Perce County a ranking of 24th out of Idaho's 44 counties in population growth for 2005.



Labor Force & Employment

Nez Perce County is the economic engine of North Central Idaho. Total employment increased in 2005, with new jobs created in *Other Manufacturing* (jet boats), *Transportation*, *Leisure & Hospitality*, and *Health Services*. Unfortunately, layoffs continue to occur in high wage corporate officer occupations as companies consolidate workload to centralized locations outside of Nez Perce County. The loss of these high wage positions has had a profound effect on the general economy.

Between 2000 and 2005, a majority of the new jobs were created in the *Leisure & Hospitality* and *Trade* industries. These jobs reduced the unemployment rate, but were usually part-time with no benefits and near the bottom of the wage ladder. Workers in these part-time jobs are counted as employed even though they may be looking for full-time opportunities. As a result, a large



pool of underemployed workers was created. Underemployed workers are described as people generally seeking full-time employment with benefits and wages above \$8.00 per hour.

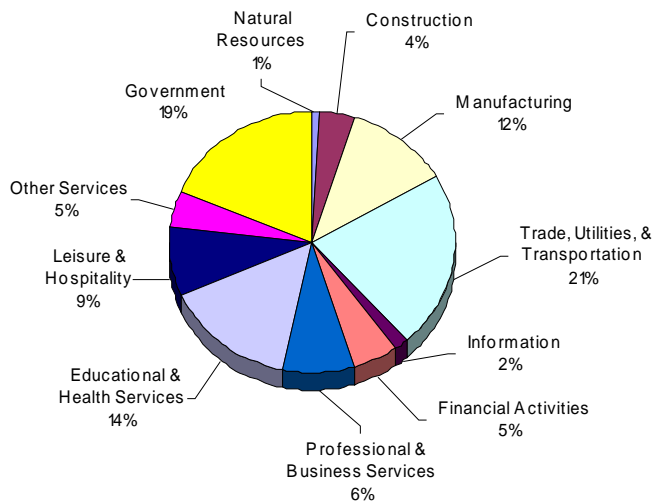
Counting these workers as employed reduces the unemployment rate but minimizes a growing problem.

In *Agriculture*, cattle and wheat producers welcomed the news of a gradual upswing in both markets. However, *Agriculture* employment has dropped 30.7 percent since 1987. The Port of Lewiston, Idaho's only seaport, has played a major role in economic development.

Labor Force	May 2005	May 2006
Civilian Labor Force	19,417	19,017
Total Employment	18,515	18,221
Unemployed	902	797
Nez Perce County % Unemployed	4.6	4.2
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.9	3.4
U.S. % Unemployed	5.1	4.7

Labor Force	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Civilian Labor Force	22,084	22,571	23,123	23,707	23,393	18,570	19,218	19,176	18,844	18,571	19,102
Unemployment	872	810	785	901	870	959	1,023	1,000	986	886	817
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.9	3.6	3.4	3.8	3.7	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.2	4.8	4.3
Employment	21,212	21,761	22,338	22,806	22,523	17,611	18,195	18,176	17,858	17,686	18,285

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2004



Employers and Wages

From 2003 to 2004, the number of employers increased in Nez Perce county by 15 to 1,297. The increase was primarily from small employers in the *Leisure & Hospitality* and *Trade* industries. The number of large employers, those with 200 or more employees, remained about the same, but their overall total employment decreased. Average wages for the county in 2004 increased by 2.8 percent from 2003.

Major Employers

St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center
ATK
City of Lewiston
Lewis-Clark State College
Lewiston Independent School Dist. #1
Nez Perce County
Nez Perce Tribal Exec. Comm.
Potlatch Corp.
Tribune Publishing Co.
Twin City Foods, Inc.
Wal-Mart

Occupational Wages*

Average Wages

Accountants	\$17.52
Carpenters	\$14.60
Cashiers	\$7.14
Child Care Workers	\$7.00
Computer Techs	\$14.52
Dental & Health Care Assistants	\$10.21
Janitors	\$8.10
Guards	\$9.39
Nurses	\$18.89
Salespersons, Retail	\$7.25
Secretaries	\$10.03
Teachers	\$18.86
Waiters & Waitresses	\$5.68

* Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Commerce & Labor website at cl.idaho.gov/lmi.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1994, 2003, & 2004	1994		2003		2004	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	18,999	\$23,580	20,544	\$29,127	20,501	\$29,965
Agriculture	206	\$27,744	186	\$38,829	196	\$41,012
Mining	148	\$23,490	106	\$32,506	86	\$48,435
Construction	756	\$25,228	742	\$31,287	861	\$32,454
Manufacturing	3,190	\$34,381	2,660	\$41,646	2,573	\$42,511
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	4,310	\$19,131	4,553	\$24,558	4,543	\$25,405
Information	349	\$20,581	338	\$26,397	344	\$26,572
Financial Activities	1,122	\$24,811	1,240	\$32,847	1,170	\$32,661
Professional and Business Services	1,248	\$35,629	1,247	\$43,040	1,338	\$43,241
Educational and Health Services	2,280	\$23,657	3,167	\$28,868	3,220	\$29,409
Leisure and Hospitality	1,727	\$8,473	1,872	\$11,199	1,822	\$11,426
Other Services	692	\$14,451	616	\$17,515	606	\$17,374
Government	2,973	\$23,407	3,819	\$30,237	3,743	\$31,568

Per Capita Income	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Nez Perce County	\$20,335	\$21,299	\$21,974	\$23,104	\$23,867	\$24,899	\$25,738	\$25,488	\$25,870	\$27,274
State of Idaho	\$18,707	\$19,426	\$20,248	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,075	\$25,185	\$25,330	\$26,877
United States	\$22,172	\$23,076	\$24,175	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,845	\$30,575	\$30,804	\$31,472

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the office listed below:
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